

2/8 (6)

**John Murray**

**To:** Board of Selectmen; Board of Assessors  
**Cc:** Bill Ryan; Sharon Summers; Don Johnson; Stephen Barrett; Brian McMullen  
**Subject:** March 8, 2004 Classification Hearing  
**Importance:** High

The Schools were unable to provide Finance Staff with the Certification of Regional Debt Exclusions today as requested in my documents dated 2/20/04, and 3/1/04. Don has just concluded a conversation with Bill and they have scheduled a meeting Monday morning at 8:30. Such a meeting may resolve the issue. However resolution at such a late date, may preclude Brian and his staff from having enough time to prepare for the Classification Hearing. Assuming that to be true, the Selectmen and Assessors will need to choose between:

1. Concluding the Tax Classification hearing without Tax Rate information. If the Hearing is concluded on March 8, 2004, the Board of Selectmen need to understand that the remainder of the Tax Setting Process cannot **begin** until the prescribed certification is received.
2. Continuing the Hearing to a time certain, such a time should be 24 - 48 hours after staff receives the prescribed certification from the Schools

At a minimum, it is unclear staff will have sufficient time to issue tax bills, as prescribed by law, on March 30, 2004

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3/5/2004